

# COUNCIL BRIEFS

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April 10, 2015

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## **Beware of Identity Theft involving your 2014**

**Tax Return:** Since the beginning of the year, the Police Department has received over 60 reports of Identity Theft involving someone fraudulently filing tax refunds with the IRS for the 2014 tax year. If this has happened to you, first call the West Hartford Police Department and then contact the appropriate agency below so you can properly file your tax return:

*For State Refunds*, contact the CT Department of Revenue Services Refund Protection Group, (855) 842-1441 or go to their [web site](#).

*For Federal Returns*, contact the IRS at (800) 829-1040 or go to their [web site](#).

**Recycling Center reopens:** As of April 1, EnviroCycle Recycling Center at 25 Brixton Street reopened for residential drop-off of yard waste, household recyclables, leaves, brush, rock, dirt, concrete, motor oil and automotive batteries. For the months of April and May, the Recycling Center will be open on Mondays and Fridays, 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM; and Saturdays from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

A permit is required and must be purchased annually. [Permits may be purchased online](#) with a credit/debit card but must be picked up at the Public Works office at 17 Brixton St.

## **Police & Fire Fighter of the Year announced:**

At the West Hartford Exchange Club's annual awards program on April 1, Officer Ryan Riley and Fire Fighter Jason Preuss were recognized by their peers as the best in their departments.

Officer Riley has received many letters of commendation and appreciation and is known for his infectious positive attitude. In 2014, Officer Riley recovered \$60,000 worth of stolen merchandise, was involved in 539 arrests, seized 2, 976 bags of heroin, 111.4 grams of cocaine and over 3 pounds of marijuana.

Fire Fighter Jason Preuss was nominated for his

off-duty actions attempting to rescue an injured person while alone at the scene of a motor vehicle accident on Route 83.

**High achievers of DWI Arrest earn Mothers Against Drunk Driving Award:** Officers Jeff Swank and Danny Bedford are being recognized by MADD for their diligence in keeping drunk drivers off the street. Officer Swank is the top enforcer of DWI and traffic laws with 80 DWI arrests in 2014. Due in part to Officer Swank's work, the West Hartford Police Department received a grant from the CT DOT Highway Safety Office for DWI enforcement efforts.

Officer Dan Bedford is one of our most dedicated DWI enforcement officers and is a member of the crash reconstruction team. He sets a high standard for all police officers in the field of DWI enforcement. Officer Bedford made 34 DWI arrests 2014.

**Three new police officers join WHPD:** The police department welcomed three new police officers on March 29. They are Officer Jeffrey Hopkins, Officer Michael LaPointe and Officer Nicholas Sanford. The department has six vacancies.

**Kiwanis Stars for Kids Award:** The Kiwanis Club of West Hartford is pleased to announce Sergeant Michael Alquist is one of eight recipients of the Kiwanis Stars for Kids Award which recognizes exemplary service and volunteerism in working with children in the community.

Sergeant Alquist is a volunteer for the Celebrate West Hartford's Kids Fun Run, the West Hartford Summer Swim League, and the West Hartford Girls Soccer League. An awards ceremony will be held on May 16 at the American School for the Deaf.

Ronald F. Van Winkle  
Town Manager